FRIDAY, Dec. 9, 1785.] [No. 1.—Vol. I.

THE American Recorder, AND CHARLESTOWN THE ADVERTISER.

Published every TUESDAY and FRIDAY, by ALLEN and CUSHING, at their Office, near the FERRY, in CHARLESTOWN: Where *Subscriptions, Advertisements*, &c. for this Paper, are taken in:—Likewise, by Mr. B. LARKIN, Bookseller, No. 45, Cornhill, BOSTON.

PRINTING-OFFICE, *Charlestown*, *December* 9, 1785.

To the PUBLICK.

THE Subscribers, in consequence of the encouragement they have received from a number of Gentlemen, in this and other towns, for the purpose, have at length published the first number of the AMERICAN RECORDER. Their apparatus for the business are not so complete as they expected to have possessed, and their number of subscribers considerably less than what was thought necessary to enable them to commence the publication with advantage. These disappointments, it is presumed, will be deemed a reasonable apology for its appearing on a smaller scale than was at first proposed. They hope, however, from their proximity to the metropolis, the growing state of this town and the surrounding country, and the disposition of the people to encourage every useful institution, that the latter obstacle to the prosecution of their expensive undertaking will be removed in the course of a few months; and the first opportunity will be embraced to remove the former. —In their publications, they will exert themselves to procure for their readers the earliest and most important intelligence, and to present them with such variety of entertainment as is calculated to suit their different tastes; always taking care not to insult the publick eye with pieces of indelicacy, or personal abuse: but they doubt not the Candour of the Publick will set down the errours they may commit to the account of Youth and Inexperience.—— They find almost innumerable embarrassments to encounter, at their setting out, not the least of which is thrown in their way by Government; but they hope, by industry and perseverance, to triumph over them all.——"'Tis "not in mortals to *command* success—but we'll "do more—we'll [endeavour to] *deserve* it."

They propose, as at first, to publish the RECORDER twice in a week, viz. every TUESDAY and FRIDAY.

In consequence of its small size, the price to subscribers will be only Twelve Shillings by the year.

Customers in this town and Boston will be served with the papers, on the morning of each publication-day, by carriers employed for the purpose; and those at a greater distance will receive them by the earliest conveyance.

Advertisements will be inserted at as low a price as is customary, and continued in four numbers, if desired.

That they may be enabled to prosecute their design upon these reasonable terms, they solicit the favours of literary Gentlemen, and of all others, whose ingenuity may be instrumental to the entertainment and improvement of their fellow-men.

They would esteem themselves honoured by the commands of any of those Societies which are or may be instituted for the publick welfare, in conveying such information to the Publick, through the channel of their paper, as they may desire.

In short——Due attention will be paid to every command, and the minutest favour gratefully acknowledged, by

The Publick's humble servants,
JOHN W. ALLEN,
THOMAS C. CUSHING.

*** Gentlemen, who wish to become subscribers for this Paper, or otherwise to patronize and encourage it, are requested to leave their names, or commands, with the Printers hereof, or with Mr. B. Larkin, bookseller, No. 45, Cornhill, Boston.

Those persons, who have been kind enough to receive subscriptions for the Recorder, are desired to make immediate returns thereof to either of the above.

The following was prepared by an inhabitant of Charlestown, for the GAZETTEER, *published with the* BOSTON MAGAZINE; *and although Mr.* FREEMAN *has not yet completed its publication there, he has been kind enough to deliver it to the Printers hereof for their first Paper, it being a subject particularly interesting to the generality of their readers.*

A GEOGRAPHICAL ACCOUNT of the Town of CHARLESTOWN.

SITUATION and EXTENT.

CHARLESTOWN, in the county of Middlesex, and commonwealth of Massachusetts, lying in forty-two degrees twenty-three minutes north latitude, and four minutes east longitude from the meridian of Cambridge, being of an irregular form, about seven and a quarter miles in length, and one mile in average width; is bounded south-westerly on Cambridge, north-west on Woburn, north-west and north-east on Medford, north-east on Mistick-river, and south-easterly on Charles-river, from which its name is derived.

DIVISIONS.

The natural divisions are distinguished by within and without the neck. The first includes a peninsula, formed by Mistick and Charles-rivers, somewhat of an oval figure, about one mile and a quarter in length, and half a mile wide, upon which the town is laid out, and which is joined to the main by a narrow neck of land that prevents a junction of the rivers. The second division, containing a great quantity of fertile land, is generally used for the purposes of agriculture, and rendered valuable from its vicinity to an excellent market. There are also many situations well calculated for the luxurious enjoyment of rural life.

AVENUES.

There are country roads, without the neck, from all the adjacent towns, and a ferry across Mistick-river from Malden, called Penny-ferry, which was established by the first settlers, but of late years has been much neglected. The common entrances at the peninsula are by the neck, and by a ferry across Charles-river from Boston, constantly attended by twelve men with four boats, from sunrise until nine o'clock from March to October, and the other months until eight o'clock in the evening. This ferry is in great repute, and has afforded a considerable revenue to Harvard College, to which it was granted many years ago: but in consequence of the many inconveniencies that always attend ferries, eighty-nine gentlemen, by a legal act of incorporation granting them a toll for forty years, have organized themselves, and began the erection of a wooden bridge at said ferry, under certain regulations provided in the said act. This bridge, estimated to cost twenty thousand pounds, will be fourteen hundred and sixty-eight feet in length, forty-two feet wide, and accommodated with a convenient draw, by which vessels may pass. It is generally expected, that after the completion of this important work, which is now in great forwardness, a bridge will be erected across Mistick-river, at Penny-ferry, the advantages of which will be very great to the eastern country.

POINTS.

The only points worth notice are Moulton's and Dirty-marsh, at the north-east, and Lynde's at the south-west; the first and last of which are within the neck.

HILLS.

There are several hills in town famed in the annals of America, the most of which command an extensive prospect. Within the neck are Bunker's and Breed's, on the north-east side; and on the south-west are Town-hill, (a part of which has been lately levelled) and a small hill used for a burying-ground. Without the the neck are Prospect, Winter, Plow'd, and Cobble hills, with three others of less note, called Quarry, Reed's, and Walnut hills.

PONDS, &c.

Ware-pond, at the head of Mistick-river, is one mile and an half in length, and one mile in width,—affording plenty of small fish at all seasons. Mill-pond, within the neck, is formed artificially by a dam at the head of a lateral branch of Charles-river.——It has been of great service to the town, but is at present useless, and the dam much out of repair.

There are no mills, except those used on the farms for making cyder.

COMMONS.

There are two tracts of pasture land in common for the use of the inhabitants: one just without the neck, of about twenty-five acres, and the other within the neck, of four acres, commonly called the Training-field, from its having been much used in exercising the militia at their public trainings.

HARBOUR, &c.

The harbour is but a circumscribed continuation of that of Boston, and it is equally safe and convenient. There is a small island, lying in Mistick-river, which belongs to the town, but is scarcely worth notice.

WHARVES, &c.

There are thirteen wharves and quays where vessels may unlade; the most convenient of which are on the south-east side of the peninsula, but generally out of repair. Those at present best fit for use are Messrs Cordis's, Russell's, and Harris's. There is, also, an extensive beach, and an excellent yard for ship-building.

STREETS, &c.

There are in town eleven streets, and eighteen lanes and allies, which have generally been much altered since the year 1775. The main street, leading from the ferry to the neck, is fifty feet wide, and, a few rods from the ferry, is accommodated with a spacious market-square, environed with large buildings, and calculated for mercantile uses. The principal streets are well paved with beach stones, and there are many vacant house-plats well situated for business. The alterations and amendments have been greatly facilitated by an act of the legislature for that purpose, granting one half of the amount of taxes levied upon the town for seven years from October, 1781.

GARDENS and FIELDS.

No seaport in the commonwealth is better accommodated in this respect; scarcely a house